

Individual Submission 224

To: Nadine Seifert  
Date: 6/08/2008  
Subject: trail bikes

Hello Nadine,  
Please find attached by short submission to the CMC review.  
Could you please acknowledge receipt.

Regards XXXX

---

Review of Queensland's off-road motorbike noise  
laws (June 2008)

Submission by XXXX  
Glass House Mts, Q 4518  
6<sup>th</sup> August 2008

My wife and I are being subjected to unacceptable noise from trail bikes on a daily basis. We live on a main road that has a walking track that is used daily by trail bikes. XXXX along another boundary to our property is also heavily utilised as it leads to state forest areas. I have complained to the police many times but they seem unwilling or unable to do anything about the problem. On the one occasion they did catch a person I reported, they let him off with a warning. This was an under-aged person riding an unregistered bike up a walking track at over 80kph after first crossing a main highway. The next day I saw the same person riding in the state forest. I talked to the police and they said that they were not allowed to chase riders on the dirt roads in the State Forest. How they can catch dirt bikes on dirt roads is beyond me?

The majority of the noisy bikes are unregistered and they constitute over 90% of all the bikes in this area. This makes them more or less unidentifiable.

The problem is greatest at weekends. It is almost impossible to even contact the police at this time. For some reason the Beerwah Police Station remains closed most weekends.

I do a lot of walking and running in the state forests and I have never seen the police in action. We call weekends "open season" around here for illegal activities in the state forests and national parks. My wife is often scared out of her wits by some aggressive riders and at times hides in the bush to avoid being seen by them. This is not acceptable. They deliberately rev their machines and shower you with mud and dirt.

Individual Submission 225

To: Nadine Seifert  
Date: 7/08/2008  
Subject: Kind Regards

Kind Regards  
XXXX

I am writing to you with regard to the CMC Review currently under way into the Off Road Motorbike Laws

I have been involved with Motocross on behalf of my sons and Husband and found it to be a very family orientated Sport. We were originally involved with the Stanmore Motocross Facility located at Yatala and we are now involved with the Gold Coast Motocross Club at Reedy Creek located at the Southern End of the Coast.

I am writing to you because ALL off road Motorbike Clubs, on the Gold Coast and one in Brisbane (Fort Lytton MX) are under threat of Closure within the next 6 months. These tracks have been in existence for approximately 20-30 years.

Between the Three Clubs, we have approximately 1500+ Members and if these Clubs do shut down there will be another 1500 people looking for somewhere to ride their bikes. I understand that the CMC is looking into the effectiveness of the laws, but wouldn't it first be best to offer these riders a safe and controlled Environment to pursue their chosen Sport in rather than have these tracks close and then the local bushland be inundated with Bike riders? And in their defence where else do they go? Penalising Bike Riders who really have no alternatives just seems quite harsh. After all this is their chosen Sport. It would be similar to closing down all Football fields because of complaints of noise and then fining the players for trying to play on any patch of grass they can find. And I have heard that a lot of Football Clubs receive Noise Complaints from surrounding neighbours about PA Systems and noisy crowds!!!!

At all three Clubs we are governed by Motorcycling Queensland who is our controlling body. All riders must be licensed and their licences reflect the capacity at which they are able to participate in the Sport. Recreational Licences are used for Practice Days only. Junior & Senior Club Licences are for participating in Club Organised Race Days, and Junior and Senior National Licences allow the Riders to compete nationally. We have First Aid/Paramedics on Site at all Race Days and Flag Marshals for Track Safety. We run our Events in a safe and controlled environment.

I really don't want to make this letter a "Save our Club" letter, but with the closure of these tracks imminent, the amount of riders in bushland will inevitably increase and will impact immensely on the bushland, its neighbours, flora and fauna. We need to look further than the implementing of Laws and the validity of those laws already in place when we are taking Legal Sites away from riders and not offering alternative sites.

Kind Regards

XXXX  
On behalf of Gold Coast Motocross Club  
XXXX

**Individual Submission 226**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 7/08/2008  
**Subject:** motor cycle noise

Hello as a local taxi driver in the Woodridge and Beenleigh areas. I feel I would like to point out the illegal motorcycle users (unregistered, unlicensed) do frequent these areas. I frequently see them playing chicken with the police and the police can chase them as much as I like but they always seem to be able to escape the police. I am not entirely sure what the recent laws are, however there has been a decrease in the number of the illegal motorcycle users in my area I live in Marsden.

I certainly believe that these young people, that do have these motorcycles should be entitled to have an area where they can actually use these machines with a reasonable degree of safety. Of course getting to and from the so-called legal areas if they can be arranged will still create a different problem. Getting their machine to and from the location. However as a family, any family, if you can afford to own one of these machines we should also consider they must be able to afford to purchase the trailer necessary to transfer machines to and from a track.



**Individual Submission 229**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 7/08/2008  
**Subject:** The other side of the "motorbike hoon" hysteria...

Hello Nadine,

I read in the Cairns Sun newspaper, under the heading of "motorbike hoons" that your organisation is taking public submissions about police powers and the suchlike.

This is a completely unfair and one-sided process that will only get submissions from cranky old computer savvy pensioners with nothing better to do than complain about things, particularly young people having fun...

I am 38 and have a diploma of conservation and land management, and am nearly finished a degree in environmental science. I also enjoy trail bike riding. I live near the Herberton State forest, where there are issues with trail bike riders, but I'll also point out that there are more pressing environmental issues occurring (Illegal logging, Illegal firewood collection including ringbarking of trees, feral animals and horse riders, inappropriate fire management regimes, past disturbance leading to rill and gully erosion, cannabis cultivation, urbanites in their 4 wheel drives... to name a few).

Many of these types of environmental degradation are actually kept relatively in check by the frequent use by trail bike riders.

I'm not about to pretend that motorbikes are in any significant way beneficial environmentally, and they are a selfish sport as they do nothing for anybody not actually riding them.

There is also the issue of the type of bike, with 2 strokes being far noisier than 4 strokes. There's the idea that if people are only allowed to ride on their own block, it's much more annoying for the neighbours than cruising past on the way somewhere else.

The horse people are an extremely vociferous and self-indulgent minority, but sadly often includes the "big end of town" so they are allowed to do as they please.

Trail bikes, on the other hand, are often used by those too young to vote or those not interested in the voting process. This is why they are such a target for cranky old boring wannabe politicians. For many young guys, it is about the only freedom they have and something to aspire to and achieve. In times when suicide is about the same likelihood as road fatality, is it productive to take away a harmless freedom for the sake of a few pensioner votes? Given that places like Cairns are no longer safe to walk at night, due to groups of aimless youths looking for action, does it make sense to remove an avenue for expending pent-up energy and frustration?

It is simply a nonsense to carp on about the good old days when people stood around a piano singing "The road to Gundagai", or excitedly swapped Enid Blyton books with one another, because things have moved on from there.

Equally, it is a nonsense to suggest that theres a perfectly good motorbike track being opened up somewhere one day, as young people wont have a way of getting there- and the police will be sitting around in air-conditioned comfort reading the newspaper waiting for them. Not to mention the main factors, that young people cant afford the admission price (which will be high because of insurance), and its boring riding round in circles amongst the rich kids. Tracks will be good businesses, but wont do anything about the actual issues.

My understanding of police powers to tackle the problem as they presently stand, include bike confiscation and about a \$700 fine for unregistred/uninsured vehicle. That is more than adequate to deter people from doing the wrong thing, or at least doing it where it wont bother too many people.

Personally, I feel there is too many serious things like bashings and rapes being neglected in favour of things that are lucrative (traffic fines) or easy (busting old hippies with a bit of dope). Thats understandable, we all choose the easiest path, and politics now must include a cost-recovery component in most cases.

There you have it, no doubt most likely the only submission that isnt on the moral high-horse bandwagon bleating feebly about how terrible things are and how you could get a wheelbarrow of potatoes for seven and six in my-a-day...

Thank you, XXXX

**Individual Submission 231**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 6/08/2008  
**Subject:** Submissions - Review of Queensland's off-road motorbike noise laws

Nadine,

Good morning.

Please find below a brief submission in relation to the above review. This is further to our discussion of yesterday afternoon and relates to feedback for your review.

The below submissions are forwarded by me on behalf of XXXX who resides at XXXX, Burbank (XXXX. XXXX).

Ø The area bounded by Brightview Street, Prout Road and Mt. Gravatt Capalaba Road at Burbank is a classic example of an area that is abused on a regular basis by the presence of noisy motor cycles (trail bikes).

Ø The area in question is subject of four Lots one of which is owned by the Redland Shire Council.

Ø Numerous calls have been made to the local Police at Capalaba but the problems persist and the presence of unregistered trail bikes is common, particularly during weekends and school holidays at which times the usual offences of un-registered, unlicensed etc continue to occur. The noise can be quite sickening both through level and continuity. Although the local Police are obviously keen to respond and attend to the problem, it may be the case that there is not a full appreciation of the fact that the new sections of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Legislation actually exist. Although there is a wholesale on-going damage to both flora and fauna in this area, the main concern is the loss of amenity in the area and the inability to enjoy a peaceful lifestyle.

Ø No complaint is made concerning the actual response of the local Police; these submissions are simply to draw attention to the fact that it is considered that more training might be appropriate so that Police are fully aware of the existence of these new powers concerning motor cycles.

Ø Generally, it is submitted that there is a wholesale lack of knowledge in that regard and that this problem might be considerably greater than appreciated.

I would appreciate if you could note the concerns of XXXX and I thank you in advance for your acceptance of these submissions.

Regards,  
XXXX

**Individual Submission 235**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 25/07/2008 1:57pm  
**Subject:** Review of motorbike noise law

Att, Nadine,

I wish to express my concerns regarding noisy trail bikes. I understand they are a problem in many places but particularly so in the area where I live, the Glasshouse Mountains, which has large areas of forestry and National Parks. While there are plenty of isolated pine forests suitable for riding these noisy beasts, most riders seem to prefer to desecrate National Parks and native forest land causing serious erosion, destruction of the native flora and causing distress to fauna. Weekends appear to be a major problem when ute loads of bikes, most unregistered arrive in the area. Walkers do not feel safe as they are harassed by riders taking up the whole track and the peace and quiet of a walk is destroyed by constant noise.

Police and Rangers have almost no control and no hope of arrest when these riders all look identical in helmet and carry no rego identification. They are also most active when authorities are not working ie on week ends. I believe existing control measures are not working and we need stronger laws to protect our native vegetation and the rights of other citizens.

XXXX  
Glasshouse Mountains  
XXXX

**Individual Submission 236**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 8/08/2008  
**Subject:** CMC Review of Motorbike Noise Laws

Please don't identify me.

I live in the \_\_\_\_\_, having moved from the rat race of the Gold Coast.  
XXXX.

The immediate area is also rural properties, originally mostly cattle and grazing, but now we have two meat chicken farms, a turf farm and adjacent properties are still grazing but some two hundred metres between homes on either side. We don't have any neighbours for K's at the rear of our property and then they are grazing ones. Our next door neighbour (a grazing property) on our lower side sold his property a couple of years ago to a family of teenage boys with motorbikes, and that's when our peace was broken.

We had been undisturbed by motorbikes until this time. Previously, it was lovely even though the surrounding farms operate machinery, the sound from that is gone by the weekend and at night so the tranquillity is virtually unbroken.

The motorbike noise from these young teenage boys, doing motocross training and sometimes motocross meetings some weekends is enough to deafen a air raid siren. We approached the parents only to be told that they would ask the boys to keep the noise down, but they are professionals and need to train. The noise from some of the bikes sounds as if it is unmuffled. Some weekends we could count over 24 motorbikes partaking in the activities, we have called the Police. The Police said that as we live in a rural area the neighbours really could do what they wanted, unless the sound was too loud. We it is! Apparently they had had some other complaints about the same problem from other neighbours and had asked to boys to stop by 4pm on the occasions when they were active.

That inst much respite as the constant sound is deafening. The only compromise was that if we were having a family gathering to let them know through the Police and in turn the Police would ask that the bikers go elsewhere to practice to allow us to have a family B-B-Q without the noise. We have taken to leaving on most occasions so as not to make a nuisance by complaining often, as it is that bad. We tested the compromise recently late June, giving some ten days notice as it was my parents 60th Wedding Anniversary, no mean feat, but unperturbed one of the operators as they drove past to relocate sounded the horn repeatedly seemingly to let us know that he wasn't happy with the arrangement.

Most industries in the area are governed by the other noise rules and activities governed by Council development rules, they must cease operation of machinery by certain times so as not to disturb people. Why are we held to ransom by these recent purchasers, with no consideration for others?

Shouldn't the Council insist that their commercial events move to commercial arenas and not in the middle of peoples homes and businesses? I might add that we didn't get any satisfaction from the Police as far as agreement that we had rights, they seem to be taking the side of the

bikers.

I believe that this highly dangerous activity should be in a public arena, where people expect noisy things are going to happen and with proper marshalling and ambulance in attendance, in case of injuries.

Regards

XXXX

**Individual Submission 237**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 9/08/2008  
**Subject:** submission- off road motorbikes

I have already had to sell up my lovely home and move on because of noisy motorbikes being ridden on nearly every 1 to 5 acre block in our area. These bikes have not only been modified to be loud but they rev them till they scream and ride them in circles non stop till they decide then to have some fun on the roads. They have no helmets no license and no registration.

Today coming home from the hospital where my husband is dying from a bleed in his brain i was passed by some of these unregistered un helmeted bikes leaving the forest near my new home and driving through and up the main street laughing and not caring at all that they would be caught. Children as young as 6 drive the streets on motor bikes around here as if it is their right, I am not against the young or old having fun but my own 2 Sons are bike riders who pack up and ride their bikes at places such as black duck where they pay and camp and harm no one. also the lovely state forest near my house is hardly used anymore by the horse riders of this area as they have been terrified and threatened by some bike riders and on 2 occasions there has been injury to the horse rider and once to the horse that was destroyed as a result. There has also been personal attacks by bike riders on residents that dare to complain, also when i personally reported for about the tenth time of one particular rider riding down the road past my house, with a baby on the handle bars, i was told by a policeman " they have to ride somewhere" later on this same bike rider came and threatened us with violence then swung his motorbike in a tight circle hitting my husband with rocks and this was just after he had suffered his first stroke.

As a very concerned resident of Queensland i hope that by adding my comments to everyone else's this will make the government act on this escalating problem.

Yours Sincerely

XXXX

**Individual Submission 238**

**To:** Nadine Seifert  
**Date:** 9/08/2008  
**Subject:** Off road motorbikes

I have read with interest the actions being considered to alleviate a rapidly growing problem of off road motorbikes.

I live on acreage on the main road to a forest 4 wheel drive trail. All the houses in this road are on acreage and therefore cannot always be seen from the road.

Because of this it is a favourite place for walkers with dogs or children, and cyclists, but there are no pavements and most people walk on the edge of the road. It is also part of the Noosa Trail and therefore it is usual to see grown ups and children riding horses here. I have seen bikes almsr running people down and also scaring the horses with their loud noise.

Every weekend without fail, and often in the week ( especially in school holidays), the peace and quiet is shattered by extremely loud motobikes, travelling up the road to the forest at excessive speeds ( the road has a 60 kmp limit). These bikes have no registration and often the riders do not have to proper safety equipment. Add to this that there are also sometimes younger children riding on the front or back of the bike, and also the riders are doing wheelies or standing up out off of the seat. One such rider actually went into our dam which borders the road when he lost control.

Only once in 4 years have the police mounted any kind of observation, and, it was the only weekend where NOT ONE bike appeared - strange !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Makes you think they were tipped off perhaps !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

My main complaint is not actually the noise, as I only hear them passing my house, I am too far away from the 4 wheel drive road to know what happens when they are on that. I am more concerned over the safety aspect for walkers and cyclists and the fact that I have to pay a lot of money to put my car on the road (where I hopefully do not annoy anyone), and they can go up and down as much as they like without paying a cent. Also, do they have driving licences - I think not.

I have spoken to people who have complained to the police without any satisfaction. The police are either too busy, or perhaps they have children who are off road riders, as they do not seem the slightest bit interested in stopping what is fast becoming a dangerous and noisy nuisance to law abiding citizens.

I hope that your department can help to put a stop to this practice before it really get out of hand, like hooning

Regards  
XXXX